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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/407,124	09/27/1999	WILLIAM D. KENNEDY	102045	2321

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EXAMINER

KEMPER, MELANIE A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2165

DATE MAILED: 04/02/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/407,124

Applicant(s)

KENNEDY, WILLIAM D.

Examiner

M Kemper

Art Unit

2165

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 September 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 2165

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong et al., patent number 5,890,175 in view of Bezos et al., patent number 6,029,141.

Wong substantially teaches an electronic commerce system at least comprising a host in communication with a plurality of distributors (col. 3, lines 35-50); the host having a capability to sort discrete items from the distributors (col. 4, lines 5-15); and a store builder (col. 3, line 60 – col. 4, line 10) including border design and store name (fig. 2, merchant store information); product mix commensurate with a specialty store (fig. 3, specialty products, fig. 4.); store builder maintains a consumer accessible website separate from the store (fig. 11) and electronic link to the store (col. 6, line 60 – col. 7, line 5). Wong also substantially teaches the method at least comprising having a store owner electronically accessing a host, select a store type, setting up an account, customizing the appearance, customizing a product mix (see at least figs. 2-5, 7-8, col. 3, lines 20-40, col. 4, lines 1-67) including border design and store name (fig. 2, merchant store information); product mix commensurate with a specialty store (fig. 3, specialty products, fig. 4.).

Art Unit: 2165

Bezos et al. teaches devising a commission schedule (see at least col. 2, lines 1-20, col. 7, lines 35-40) and stores providing a consumer with access to items assigned a unique tag (see at least col. 6, lines 20-25, col. 3, lines 10-25, col. 11, lines 55-65, col. 7, lines 10-15). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used the commission and access via a distributor, to items assigned a unique tag as in Bezos in the system and method of Wong since the commission and access of Bezos would have promoted marketing of goods and exposure as taught by Bezos (col. 1, lines 25-50, col. 3, lines 25-40). It also would have been obvious to have customized the store by a combination of all the options of claim 3 since these are well known in the store building art for further distinction of store sites. It also would have been obvious to have the product mix commensurate with a key word store since this is well known in the art for customer searching and which would have been adopted for the intended use of searching the mall of Wong. It also would have been obvious to have permitted the ordering of personalized items since this is well known in the art and would have been adopted for the intended use of at least applications to clothing items (such as Land's End catalog which offers sewing of initials to items). It also would have been obvious to have a store owner own multiple stores each with a different URL since this would have been adopted for the intended use of running multiple specialty stores. It also would have been obvious to have the host not discernable by the customer since the customer interaction of Wong and Bezos is with the store

(buying from the store, not the mall in general). It also would have been obvious to have deselected undesired items since this would have been adopted at least for the intended use of generating specialty stores.

2. Claim 20 is objected to because of the following informalities: in line 2, "aid" should be changed to --said--. The applicant is encouraged to review the remaining claims for other typographical and/or spelling errors. Appropriate correction is required.

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kvitka "Review: Maestro Conducts Sales...and Inventory" teaches customization of Web stores InfoWorld v. 21, n. 7, 2/15/99 (whole document). No Author, "iCat Commerce Online Opens...Free Store on the Internet" PR Newswire, 4/21/98 teaches a store builder and store free on the mall (whole document).

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M Kemper whose telephone number is 703-305-9589. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wynn W. Coggins can be reached on 703-308-1344. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7240 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 2165

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.



M Kemper
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2165

MK
March 24, 2002